

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like my husband and myself who are TOTALLY DISABLED and depend upon mergers such as these to provide the ONLY form of reliable entertainment that we are able to enjoy.

We also wish to ask that you re-consider allowing those of us who are willing to pay for the inclusion of the pacific time zone channels the opportunity of allowing us the added ability to watch a program 3 hours after it would originally appear on our local channels as more often than not, we have conflicting interests on programming within the same time periods on our so called LOCAL channels. Here in Haines City FL. Our so called 'local stations' are over 100 miles AWAY in Tampa rather than 45 miles from Orlando! We cannot even find a television guide that will allow us the previleges of knowing what programming is coming on these stations.

The merger of these two satellite providers would also give us the benefits of including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S.

By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news and to those of us that are virtually SHUT IN, LOCAL WEATHER WARNINGS and IMPORTANT community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. Just as IMPORTANT NOW MORE THAN EVER, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access NOR the ABILITIES to seek them at our local libraries.

These tremendous benefits to ALL CONSUMERS won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to, in our opinion, overpriced, cable and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike.

This will give us a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Douglas and Donna Olden
512 Mckay Drive
Haines City, FL 33844